



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

**2017 Wisconsin Act 178**  
[2017 Assembly Bill 625]

**Competitive Integrated  
Employment Initiative**

2017 Wisconsin Act 178 requires prioritization of competitive integrated employment in all publically funded services and supports to working-age persons with disabilities. It also requires the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) to lead a collaboration with other state agencies to support increased competitive integrated employment. The collaboration is between DWD, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), the Department of Health Services (DHS), and all state agencies that administer programs for working-age persons with disabilities.

DWD, DPI, and DHS must jointly develop a plan to increase participation in competitive integrated employment, with the input of stakeholders including the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Council. The departments must update the plan biennially, and make annual reports on progress and impacts. The departments must publish the plan and reports on their websites or through a single, state-maintained website.

The Act grants rule-making authority to DWD, DPI, and DHS to implement this initiative. However, it prohibits any rules that would limit access to or choice of allowable services, including prevocational services, family care, and the self-directed services option.

The Act requires DHS to report to the Governor and the Legislature, at the time of its first annual report on this initiative, about the feasibility of conducting an independent study of the initiative's impacts on access to allowable services, quality of life, levels of community integration, and overall satisfaction of persons with disabilities in Wisconsin.

*Effective date:* March 30, 2018

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April 2, 2018

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.